Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IO-10 DPW-01 OMB-01

SAM-01 /088 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5615

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

USSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF NVA OFFENSIVE - SUMMARY FOR PERIOD

ENDING NOON APRIL 20

1. GENERAL

THE RELATIVELY MODERATE LEVEL OF MILITARY ACITIVITY THAT HAS PREVAILED FOR A FEW DAYS CONTINUED IN MR-IV. IN MR-III ACTIVITY WAS RELATIVELY LIGHT UNTIL THE MORNING OF THE 20TH WHEN PRESSURE ON TAY NINH BEGAN TO BUILD AND HIGHWAY 22 WAS CUT. FIGHTING ALSO COMMENCED IN THE LONG KHANH/BIEN HOA BORDER AREA. IN THE BEN LUC CORRIDOR OF LONG AN PROVINCE NVA PRESSURE AGAINST GVN OUTPOSTS IS INTENSIFYING AND SOME OUTPOSTS HAVE BEEN OVERRUN. BIEN HOA AIR BASE WAS SPORAD-CONFIDENTIAL

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ICALLY SHELLED DURING THE PERIOD WITH NO REPORTS OF DAMAGE

OR CASUALTIES. THE NVA DIVISION WHICH TOOK PHAN THIET HAS PRESSED ON TOWARD HAM TAN, CAPITAL OF BINH TUY PROVINCE. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE CITY WILL COME UNDER ATTACK WITHIN THE NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

2. MR-III

EXCEPT FOR HEAVY PRESSURE ON OUTPOSTS IN THE BEN LUC CORRIDOR OF LONG AN PROVINCE, SOME OF WHICH WERE OVERRUN, ACTIVITY IN MR-III WAS RELATIVELY LIGHT UNTIL THE MORNING OF THE 20TH. AT THAT TIME, SPORADIC SHELLING OF BIEN HOA AIR BASE COMMENCED, HEAVY FIGHTING DEVELOPED IN THE HUNG NGHIA AREA OF BIEN HOA JUST ACROSS THE BORDER FROM LONG KHANH AND THE BATTLE FOR TAY NINH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN JOINED AS THE NVA CUT HIGHWAY 22 NORTH OF GO DA HAU LEADING TO THE CITY AND ARE DEPLOYING TANK SUPPORTED TROOPS INTO THE AREA.

3. MR-IV

ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA CONTINUED AT A MODERATE LEVEL. IN DINH TUONG, A BN OF THE 9TH ARVN MADE A CONTACT NORTH OF BEN TRANH DISTRICT TOWN KILLING 11 AND CAPTURING ONE NVA SOLDIER. ELEMENTS OF THE 21ST ARVN CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN THE BINH MINH AREA OF VINH LONG AND HAVE HAD SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL CONTACTS. PHONG DINH REMAINS QUIET AS NVA UNITS PULL BACK TO RESUPPLY AND REPLACE LOSSES. MARTIN

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